



*Congressman*  
**BENNIE THOMPSON**  
 REPRESENTING THE SECOND DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI



## The Thompson Report

**Homeland Security Funding: Stoneville, Mississippi has We Must Get it Right**

**Put a Cap on the Gas**

**Wear Blue**

# MISSISSIPPI

AGRICULTURE  
 BLUES  
 HISTORY



## Homeland Security Funding: We Must Get it Right

Recently, you may have seen a 60 Minutes show investigating where and how Homeland Security funds are used once they reach the State level. The report pointed out time and time again how State Homeland Security directors across the country mis-used federal funds. Some examples of misuse include the use of Homeland Security com-

mand centers to transport lawn mowers from one town to another and the purchase of bullet proof vests for police canines. After my colleagues and I viewed this 60 Minutes investigation, we

were disappointed and outraged. The findings revealed in the investigation on how funds were being used, definitely showed funds were not being used for their intended purposed. Since the airing of this 60 Minutes re-

***"Homeland Security funds are given to the State on the basis of a formula set by Congress."***

port, we have held congressional hearings to question the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Referenced was called to the 60

Minute investigation the committee has viewed and to the findings of that investigation. The committee expressed that misuse of Homeland Security funds are

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Stoneville, Mississippi has It, No One Else Does!

One year ago, March 2004, the USDA Research Center held a groundbreaking ceremony for the only National Biological Control Laboratory (NBCL) in the world. Now, on March 31, 2005 all the hard work has come to fruition with the dedication ceremony of the 53,000

square foot NBCL in Stoneville, Mississippi.

This center will provide an interdisciplinary team of scientist with facilities for basic and applied research towards developing practical methods of mass propagation, storage, and delivery of beneficial strategies for

integrated pest management. The scientists will be housed in the NBCL are from four research units: Biological Control of Pests, Southern Weed Science, Southern Insect Management, and Crop Genetics and Production Research Units NBCL is expected to stimulate further increase

in global agricultural industries.

The facility includes separate wings for micro-organisms and macro-organisms work. The research area includes a room for media preparation, and separate rooms for the fermentors and

*(Continued on page 2)*

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## Put a Cap on the GAS!

***"The current energy bill being pushed by this Republican-led Congress, gives more than \$8.1 billion dollars in tax breaks and incentives to big oil companies."***

The future of our nation's energy depends upon an energy plan which lessens oil dependence on foreign nations. We cannot continue to fall for talk that the Administration is in the process of passing an energy bill. The so-called energy bill is expected to make little difference, if any, in price pressure on the world oil markets because it fails to reduce oil dependence in the short or long run. The President and the Administration could do much more to negotiate revamping oil refineries here in the United States, as well as fully funding programs to develop alternative energy

resources.

Our nation's energy problems are much worse than not being able to drill our American oil. Even if we could drill our



own oil, it would not help the supply crisis and bring oil prices down. This is because the United States has not built a new oil refinery since 1976. Today, all of our American refineries are running at full

capacity.

In order to fix our energy crisis, the Administration must make a real commitment to the energy policy. The current energy bill being pushed by this Republican-led Congress, gives more than \$8.1 billion dollars in tax breaks and incentives to big oil companies. This is far from committing to energy or bringing the gas prices down. The Administration's efforts to fix the energy crisis would be better served by taking those same incentives and offering them to research and

development of alternative energy resources.

Tremendous strides have been made in the area of ethanol and biodiesel technology. If the administration is serious about improving energy and the gas prices, it would actively push for developing alternative energy and more oil refineries as well. I have and will continue to support alternative energy policies, as well as mechanism to keep gas prices in check.

For more information, please contact Karis Gutter in my Washington, DC office at 202-225-5876.

Visit Congressman Thompson on the Web at [www.house.gov/thompson](http://www.house.gov/thompson).

## Stoneville, Mississippi has It, No One Else Does!



**National Biological Control Laboratory  
Stoneville, Mississippi  
March 31, 2005**

bioreactors with computer control of all processes. The Insect wings are compartmentalized and progresses from office area to insect research laboratories to multi-species rearing of insects to the pilot plant area,

which is dedicated to private sector involvement. Finally, the Microbial Wing consists of six individual laboratory rooms that minimize the poten-

***"...this facility will not only benefit Mississippi but the entire United States..."***

tial of cross contamination of product.

No one would have ever thought that such a large project like this would be located in such a small community as Stoneville, Mississippi. I am glad the Mississippi Delegation was able to get the funding for this much needed project. This shows

Mississippi is able to compete with any other state for programs that will provide improvement in scientific research.

I would like to commend the USDA-ARS staff for seeking to undertake and endeavor of this scope and magnitude. I look forward with great anticipation that this facility will not only benefit Mississippi but the entire United States in the areas of research and development.

If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Edgar King, Jr. or Area Director, Jamie Whitten at 662-686-5265. You may also contact Juliet Thomas in my Greenville office at 662-335-9003.

## Homeland Security Funding: We Must Get it Right

unacceptable and must be changed.

As it currently stands, Homeland Security funds are given to the State on the basis of a formula set by Congress. In this formula, all states are given a base amount of money and funding requested above that amount must show a need by the state requesting. This base is a percentage of the President's overall homeland security budget. Grants are made in the form of reimbursement to the State's. In addition to base amounts and set funding, grants can be awarded upon request. Once these requests are approved by the Department of Home-

land Security, the State is then reim-



bursed for the money spent to buy equipment.

The reality is that Homeland Security funds should be based on needs and not wants as well as allow very little room for misconstruing their intended purpose. Homeland

Security funding is the key to protecting towns and tribal lands. All the legislation and legal discussions cannot help us if the funds are not properly spent by the States. Democrats are committed to making sure that the State Homeland Security departments and the Department of Homeland Security have a need based approach to protecting our homeland land our hometowns. In short, we must get the Homeland Security funding right.

For more information, contact Zahra Buck in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-5876.

### Wear Blue

It started like this, *"In the spring of 1989, a grandmother named Bonnie Finney took a stand*

***"...wear a blue ribbon until it becomes tattered and frayed—to show support of families and children and child abuse prevention agencies and organization..."***

*against child abuse in Virginia. She tied a blue ribbon on the antenna of her mini van in remembrance of her late grandson as a signal to her community that child abuse continues to be a devastating social plague."* I echo Ms. Finney's sentiments, Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to for protection for our children. And I am extending the same charge to people all over.

The Department of

Family and Children Services is a federal agency that seeks to alleviate the abuse suffered by children throughout the world. Although there are a shortage of Social Workers and incentives, their work must not go un-recognized and appreciated. We rely on them heavily! Protecting chil-

dren is every body's responsibility.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is another volunteer organization. It is the eyes and ears of every day citizens. It is your next door neighbor. Your church member, your local grocery store cashier, your crossing guard, and others. This say's something when people give freely of themselves at no cost of time or any fringe benefits to protect the life of a

child. "It takes a village to raise a child," is the honest truth. While traveling or simply watching the news it is almost expected to

hear a story of how an innocent helpless child is killed at the hands of an adult. Sure, I understand the pains of a

parent and I want them to get the help they need to become loving protective parents and not abusers. But times have changed, our children come from homes with serious issues. Issues brought on by a number of things. As I go about my work as a US Congressman this is one issue that is impossible to limit to my District in Mississippi. My

love for children has no boundaries—I am a father and a grandfather. Like Ms. Finney said, she hopes people will wear a blue ribbon until it becomes



*Department of Human Services  
4th Annual Child Abuse Awareness  
Program - April 1, 2005  
Rosedale, MS*

tattered and frayed—to show support of families and children and child abuse prevention agencies and or-

ganization all over the world and in every corner of the globe where children live and suffer ever day. We must protect our future—our children!

For more information, please contact Geri Adams in my Mound Bayou office at 662-741-9003.



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U.S. House of Representatives  
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~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

- ◆ The telephone number for my Jackson office has been changed to 601-946-9003.
- ◆ Congressman Bennie G. Thompson participated in an Open House Ceremony in Belzoni, Mississippi. Tallahatchie Housing, Inc. hosted the Open House Ceremony on Monday, April 25, 2005 to celebrate the completion of the Willie F. (Bill) Brown Manor apartment complex located on Pluck Road. The complex will be available to the elderly, 62 years and older, with an annual income of less than \$12,000.



Pictured above (l to r) are: Supervisor Henry Reed, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Tallahatchie Housing Executive Director Jerome Little, Supervisor Willie F. Brown, Rev. Ware, Johnnie Lee Smith, and Rev. Harlan White

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